IN THE CLAIMS

For the convenience of the Examiner, the pending claims are reproduced below. Claims 23-27, 29, 31, 33 and 35 are newly cancelled.

Claims 1-27 (Cancelled)

28. (Previously presented) A method for determining the presence or amount of at least one target ligand in a fluid sample, the method comprising:

a. contacting a fluid sample suspected of containing said target ligand with a ligand analogue conjugate and a ligand receptor, said ligand analogue conjugate comprising at least one ligand analogue coupled to a signal development element comprising a water soluble hybrid phthalocyanine derivative, to form a homogeneous reaction mixture, whereby said ligand analogue conjugate competes with said target ligand for binding to said ligand receptor, wherein said water soluble hybrid phthalocyanine derivative is a tetraazapyrrole molecule, wherein (i) at least one of the four pyrrole moieties is fused to a single carbocyclic ring to form a phthalocyanine subunit, (ii) each of the other three pyrrole moietie is fused to between zero and three carbocyclic rings to form a subunit selected from the group consisting of an azaporphine subunit, a phthalocyanine subunit, a naphthalocyanine subunit and an anthranylocyanine subunit, and (iii) at least two of the four pyrrole moieties comprises a different number of carbocyclic rings fused thereto;

b. generating a detectable signal from ligand analogue conjugate bound to said ligand receptor in said reaction mixture; and

c. relating the detectable signal to the presence or amount of said target ligand in said fluid sample.

Claim 29 (Cancelled)

30. (Previously presented) A method for determining the presence or amount of at least one target ligand in a fluid sample, the method comprising:

a. contacting said fluid sample suspected of containing said target ligand with a ligand analogue conjugate and a ligand receptor, said ligand analogue conjugate comprising at least one ligand analogue coupled to a signal development element comprising a water soluble hybrid phthalocyanine derivative, to form a homogeneous reaction mixture, whereby said ligand analogue conjugate competes with said target ligand for binding to said ligand receptor, wherein said water soluble hybrid phthalocyanine derivative is a tetraazapyrrole molecule, wherein (i) at least one of the four pyrrole moieties is fused to a single carbocyclic ring to form a phthalocyanine subunit, (ii) each of the other three pyrrole moietie is fused to between zero and three carbocyclic rings to form a subunit selected from the group consisting of an azaporphine subunit, a phthalocyanine subunit, a naphthalocyanine subunit and an anthranylocyanine subunit, and (iii) at least two of the four pyrrole moieties comprises a different number of carbocyclic rings fused thereto;

b. generating a detectable signal from ligand analogue conjugate that is not bound to said ligand receptor in said reaction mixture; and

c. relating the detectable signal to the presence or amount of said target ligand in said fluid sample.

Claim 31 (Cancelled)

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein said ligand analogue conjugate bound to said ligand receptor is bound to a solid phase prior to generating a detectable signal therefrom.

Claim 33 (Cancelled)

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said ligand analogue conjugate that is not bound to said ligand receptor is bound to a solid phase prior to generating a detectable signal therefrom.

Claim 35 (Cancelled)